

July 19, 1965

PERS: Prewett, Virginia
ORG: OAS
POL 1-03.3 Haiti

HEMISPHERE SEARCHLIGHT

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THE HAITIAN situation is one that will require the U. S. State Department and the Organization of American States (OAS) to move with extreme caution.

"President" Francois Duvalier of Haiti, who last year named himself his country's ruler for life, has told the OAS that Castroite infiltrators have moved against him from the Dominican Republic.

President Duvalier is ailing and perhaps not long for this world. But he is wily, tough and dominated by an arrogance that he conceals beneath a smooth personal manner.

Duvalier furthermore has permitted — for his own purposes, of course — a smart, tough and experienced group of dedicated communists to become entrenched in his government.

The Latin American Times recently pinpointed editorially the presence in Haiti's cabinet of the well-known communist Herve Boyer and Paul Blanchet, respectively Duvalier's Minister of Finance and his Minister of Information. But there are many others.

WITH COMMUNISTS all around him and hundreds of Haitians in training in Castro's Cuba with their full consent, Duvalier now raises the cry that he is being attacked by pro-Castro infiltrators.

If OAS "protection" can once be obtained for Duvalier's regime, then the OAS blessing will have been obtained in advance for the regime that Duvalier obviously means to follow, him. As things stand now, this succeeding government will be in the control of Duvalier's communist aides.

The old dictator is ill and has been rumored dead twice already this summer. What he is obviously angling for now is a benediction from the OAS and the U. S. that will sustain him for the rest of his life and guarantee the survival of his political heirs.

AT any time it is possible for an exile group to try to get back into their country to prepare for Duvalier's overthrow or death. Duvalier of course, can and will accuse

them of being pro-Castroites whether they are or not.

The purpose of this, of course, would be to "prove" to the world that Duvalier is under attack and therefore must have the support of both the U. S. and the OAS.

DUVALIER AND his advisers are capable of playing out any political farce necessary to confuse and deceive the U. S. and the hemisphere public.

For the old dictator and his supporters are desperate. The U. S. some time ago cut off the grants that had been paying Haitian government expenses. Washington also cut off the Alliance for Progress projects that Duvalier used for political patronage.

Duvalier's economy has been shrinking steadily as result of his system of allowing forces which he calls "militia" and which the people call the "Ton-Ton Macoute" — or Bogey-men — to collect "taxes" at will at gun point.

Furthermore, Haiti has never recovered from devastating hurricanes that have afflicted it in the past few years.

The island people's brains

and energy have been systematically sabotaged by Duvalier's terroristic rule. Many of its able and educated people have been murdered or forced into exile.

DUVALIER HAS tried to get economic help from the Iron Curtain countries. They sent instead "experts" who are now embedded in the government machinery. Duvalier tried to get help from the Middle East. His adventure with an Egyptian ended abruptly when the Egyptian fled — with his little black bag full of loot, according to Duvalier's spokesmen.

Nobody is left but Uncle Sam. Duvalier and his followers must find a way to have their cake and eat it too. Duvalier must have protection against the righteous wrath of a long oppressed people. He must have assurances that his communist-infiltrated machine will survive.

He is laying a trap to get this help. This is the trap we must avoid.